God's Wonderful

JUDGMENT

IN

Lincoln-shire:

OR, A DREADFUL

WARNING

To Children that are undutiful to their Parents:

BEING

A true Account of the sad end of a young Man about seven Miles from *Lincoln*, who having been very disobedient, and so unnatural as to strike his own Father, and otherwise a notorious ill-liver.

The Devil on *Saturday* the 22th of *March* last, visibly appeared to him, and thenceforward he fell into dispair of God's mercy, acknowledging that he had given himself to the Devil ever since he was ten years old; and so after a Fortnights continuance in that miserable condition dyed.

Except Ye Repent Ye shall all likewise perish.

With Allowance.

LONDON, Printed for *L. C.* 1673.

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JUDGMENT

IN

Lincoln-ſhire.

THE Truth of the matter we are here to relate is ſo well known, and the Circumſtances ſo ſtrange, that we need uſe no Preamble either to Court the Readers belief, or awake his attention, it being certainly one of the greateſt and moſt viſible and immediate puniſhments for horrid ſins that has happened in our Age.

The Perſon thus rendred ſadly Exemplary, dwelling at a Village between ſix and ſeven miles from *Lincoln*, towards *Grantham*; his Condition in the World was but mean, but yet he lived without much labour, and ſpent a great deal of time and money in Drinking and Debauchery, which made many people much admire how he came by Money to ſupply ſuch his extravagant Expences. His Father was an honeſt induſtrious poor man, to whom from his

Youth he had been exceeding disobedient and ungracious; for when the good Old Man went to reprove him for his lewd courses, and admonish him to amend, this wicked unnatural Son would not only slight and contemn all his wholesome and Fatherly Advice, but also fall into a Rage, and Rant, and *Swear* at him, offering frequently to *fling* things at his aged Head; and sometimes proceeded, 'tis said, to that more than Brutish insolency, as to *strike and beat* him, whom by the Laws of God, Reason, and Nature, he was bound to *reverence, obey, and succour*. But as the fourth Commandment, prescribing our duty to Parents, has above others a promise of long life and prosperity to those that obey it, so 'tis very rarely, if ever seen, that any that are without Natural Affection, or grosly disobedient to their Parents, escape without some remarkable Judgment even in this life: And indeed what security can they expect, when the Book of God dreadfully pronounces so many Woes, Curses, and Punishments against them: As for example, *Every one that curseth* (or *speaketh evil*, as some Transl tors render it, of) *his Father or Mother, shall be surely put to death: His blood shall be upon him*. Levit. 20. 9. *Cursed be he that despiseth his Father or Mother*, Deut. 27. 16. *The eye that mocketh at his Father, and despiseth to obey his Mother, the Ravens of the Valley shall pick it out, and young Eagles shall eat it*, Pro. 30. 17. But above all, remarkable is that Law of God in this case, *Deut.* 21. 18. And I wish in this our disobedient, stubborn, debauched Age, it were written in Capitals in most of our Childrens Bed-Chambers: ——*If a man have a stubborn*

ſtubborn and rebellious Son, which will not obey the voice of his Father, or his Mother, or that when they have chaſtened him, will not hearken unto them, then ſhall his Father and Mother lay hold of him, and bring him to the Elders of the City, and ſay unto them,—— This our Son is ſtubborn and rebellious, he will not obey our voice, he is a Glutton, and a Drunkard; —— And all the men of his City ſhall ſtone him with ſtones till he dy.

But as one Vice ſeldom goes alone; ſo beſides ſuch his undutifulneſs, this Young Man was much addicted to ſeveral other Impieties, a common Drunkard, great Swearer, and frequent Haunter of naughty Women, but eſpecially he kept company with a lewd Creature that kept a kind of a blind Ale-houſe, who hath, 'tis ſaid, debauched ſeveral men; and particularly, but at *Michaelmas* laſt one of them on his Death-bed confeſt he had committed Adultery with her, though he had a Wife of his own, and died exclaiming againſt her.

But all theſe Crying Sins at laſt brought down a ſad and dreadful Judgment upon him; for on *Saturday*, the 22th of *March*, being according to his cuſtom tipling in an Ale-houſe and very merry and frolickſome, but at that time not diſtemper'd with Drink, going forth in the Afternoon, but long before it was dark, into the Back-ſide, the Devil, as he affirm'd, did appear unto him viſibly, in an hideous frightful ſhape, which he knew not how to deſcribe, and told him, that he muſt very ſhortly have him into his Cuſtody; for that ever ſince he was ten years old, he had been his,

and

and ſerv'd no other Maſter. This horrid ſight, and more diſmal Meſſage, exceedingly aſtoniſhed the Young Man, who tarrying longer than uſual abroad, the Man of the Houſe went forth to ſee for him, and found him in a moſt affrighted condition, ſtanding at the lower end of the Garden, who ſpeaking to him, and bringing him into the houſe, after he had a little recovered his ſpirits, ask'd the Alehouſe keeper, whether he ſaw no body with him in the Garden; who replied, no——why, was there any with you——Yes, ſaid the other, the Devil was with me, and threw Brimſtone in my Face——declaring what the Devil had ſaid to him, as aforeſaid; and adding further, that he muſt acknowledge he did well remember, that when he was about ten years old, his Father having ordered him to do a certain buſineſs, he diſobediently refuſed to do it, and did wiſh the Devil might take him Body and Soul, from that time, if ever he humour'd the Old Rogue (for ſo he confeſs'd he call'd his poor Father) ſo far as to do it; and that afterwards being threatened to be beaten, he did do it; and ever ſince he had been ſo horridly inclined to all kind of wickedneſs, that though he made many private Reſolutions to amend yet could not reclaim himſelf, but new temptations ſtill preſented themſelves, & led him away to freſh Impieties, even many times againſt his own natural Inclinations; ſo that he ſaid, he verily believ'd the Devil from that day forwards had taken poſſeſſion of him,—— or words to that purpoſe and effect.

The Maſter of the houſe was much concerned for him, and ſent for ſeveral Neighbours, to whom he repeated the ſame things; at laſt ſome of them went with

with him home, and there he did nothing but cry out, That he was damned to all Eternity; that he had given himself to the Devil; and there was no hopes of Mercy for him, *&c.* Many good people endeavour'd to perswade him not to dispair, but cast himself on God's mercy, whose compassion is over all his works, and who hath sworn that he willeth *not the death of a Sinner, but rather that he repent and live*; and therefore they admonished him to go to God by Prayer and Repentance, and to believe in Christ who is mighty to save. But he answered, That God had no Mercy or Compassion for him, and that he could not pray, nor repent, nor believe, but was a damned Creature, *&c.* yet sometimes he would pray with excellent words, and all outward Demonstrations of Zeal, for a considerable time together, but would afterwards say, It did him no good, he felt no comfort or refreshing thereby, nor received any peace to his Conscience. A godly learned Minister went to him and gave him several excellent Exhortations, laying open the Riches of God's Grace, the fulness and freeness of his Promises, the infinite love of Christ, and the inestimable value of his precious Blood, to purge away the blackest of Sins; but all signified very little to his satisfaction: The same Minister offered to pray with him, but he would not suffer it; but then in a rage, as one distracted, flew at him, got his Hat from off his head, saying, There was no Redemption for him, why would they tempt God, *&c.* He often complained of the before-mentioned bad Women as the [illegible] of his ruine;

and ſometimes when he grew weaker, for he became every day more and more ſick and languiſhing, he would deſire thoſe that were about him to carry him out of the houſe, for he ſaid the bed whereupon he lay, and the houſe would be fired with Brimſtone: Having thus continued in this deplorable condition almoſt a Fortnight, without receiving any ſatisfaction as could be perceived to his troubled Soul, he gave up the Ghoſt; whom, without any further Cenſure, we leave to the diſpoſal of that God whoſe Judgments are ſometimes ſtrange and inſcrutable, but always juſt; for we deſire not to reflect on the dead, but caution the living, and ſhould not therefore have made ſuch mention of his Vices, had it not been neceſſary for that purpoſe, that men, being terrified with his ſad end, may learn to avoid his Sins— And that all our *Engliſh* Iſrael *may hear and fear, and none preſume for the future to do ſo wickedly.*

FINIS.